

# Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

A publication of the Mars Program Office and the Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group (MEPAG)

Issue: December 2010

**Next MEPAG meeting June 16-17, 2011, Lisbon, Portugal**

## Mars Science News

### MEPAG TOWN HALL MEETING AT AGU FALL MEETING

MEPAG will be having a town hall meeting at AGU on December 15, 2010, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in Moscone West, Room 3007. Topics to be discussed are preliminary results from the Mars Sample Return End-to-End Science Analysis Group (E2E-SAG) and from the Supporting Research and Technology Science Analysis Group (SRT-SAG). All are invited to attend.

### FUTURE MARS LANDING SITES

The Mars Exploration Program has issued, in November 2010, a Request for Proposal (round VI) for the Critical Data Products program. This RFP provides support to develop a number of scientifically high-priority landing sites on Mars that will form an initial list for future landed missions. Details of the RFPs are posted at: <http://acquisition.jpl.nasa.gov/rfp/NIB-269-122010/default.htm>

#### Near-term Due Dates (next three months)

Due	Project
12/4	<b>Geobiology in Space Exploration Workshop and Field Trip</b> registration deadline
12/14	<b>Workshop on the Importance of Solar System Sample Return Missions to the Future of Planetary Science</b> abstracts deadline
12/17	<b>CORALS-2011 Conference</b> indication of interest deadline
1/4	<b>42<sup>nd</sup> Lunar and Planetary Science Conference</b> abstracts deadline
1/7	<b>Geobiology in Space Exploration Workshop and Field Trip</b> abstracts deadline
2/25	<b>Workshop on the Importance of Solar System Sample Return.....</b> registration deadline

### MARS EXPLORATION SCIENCE REQUEST FOR FEEDBACK

The MEPAG Supporting Research and Technology Science Assessment Group (SRT-SAG) is requesting your feedback for a report to be submitted to the Planetary Science Subcommittee (PSS) of the NASA Advisory Council. The PSS is conducting a study into

supporting research and technology programs to assess program relevance and effectiveness, and suggest possible improvements in program management. We recognize that many of you may have already responded to a Planetary Science Division (PSD) survey on this topic, but we would like to hear your thoughts on the following topics from a Mars-specific perspective:

- Which current science-related research and technology programs are essential in meeting Mars Program objectives?
- Are there research/technology programs or infrastructure that appear to be missing currently, but that are essential in meeting Mars Program objectives?
- Do you feel that non-Mars-specific R&A programs are maintaining a consistent attitude towards Mars-related research?
- Any other topics not addressed above.

Please send your responses to the SRT-SAG Chair, Vicky Hamilton ([hamilton@boulder.swri.edu](mailto:hamilton@boulder.swri.edu)), by Friday, December 17, and be as detailed as possible. There will also be an opportunity to provide feedback to members of the SAG during the AGU Town Hall meeting on Wednesday, December 15.

### *ANNOUNCEMENT OF OPPORTUNITY FOR THE EXOMARS ENTRY, DESCENT AND LANDING DEMONSTRATOR MODULE (EDM) SCIENCE*

The AO announcement can be seen at <http://exploration.esa.int/science-e/www/object/index.cfm?fobjectid=47940>. The short URL is <http://exploration.esa.int/EDM-AO>.

Due date for Notices of Interest: January 15, 2011

Due date for proposal submission is March 1, 2011, at 12:00 Central European Time.

Professor D. Southwood  
European Space Agency

### *PRE-LPSC WRITING WORKSHOP*

NASA will host a proposal writing workshop at the Lunar and Planetary Science Conference on Sunday, March 6, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. The workshop is open to all interested planetary scientists at no cost. The session will focus on understanding NASA's research programs and will include information on how to write a research proposal, where to apply for funding, and pathways for participation on missions. To register, send an e-mail with your name, affiliation, and current position to [curt.niebur@nasa.gov](mailto:curt.niebur@nasa.gov).

## Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

Type	Date & Location	Event Information
<i>Fourth Quarter, 2010</i>		
	December 6-8, 2010 Brussels, BE	<b>COST Workshop: "Carbon in the Solar System"</b> This meeting is organized by the Working Group 3: chemistry in the solar system of the COST action CM-0805 "The chemical cosmos". COST is a science support program of the European Council aimed at promoting networking in European research, but this meeting is open to all interested parties. More details can be obtained at <a href="mailto:Christian.Muller@busoc.be">Christian.Muller@busoc.be</a> Registration is open on <a href="http://www.busoc.eu/cost/">http://www.busoc.eu/cost/</a>
	December 7-9, 2010 Kennedy Space Center, FL, USA	<b>Planetary Protection: Policies and Practices</b> Contact Technical Administrative Services (tasalb@msn.com)
	December 13-17, 2010 San Francisco, CA, USA	<b>AGU Fall Meeting</b> <a href="http://www.agu.org/meetings">http://www.agu.org/meetings</a>
<i>First Quarter 2011</i>		
	January 17-21, 2011 Leiden/Noordwijk, THE NETHERLANDS	<b>Landing Site Characterization and Selection for Future Exploration Missions, a Europlanet JRA1 Workshop</b> <a href="http://www.planetarygis.org/wiki/workshop2011">http://www.planetarygis.org/wiki/workshop2011</a>
	January 24-26, 2011 Washington, DC, USA	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the NASA Small Bodies Assessment Group (SBAG)</b>
	February 8-11, 2011 Paris, FRANCE	<b>4<sup>th</sup> International Workshop on the Mars Atmosphere: Modeling and Observations</b> <a href="http://www-mars.lmd.jussieu.fr/paris2011/">http://www-mars.lmd.jussieu.fr/paris2011/</a>
	February 7-9, 2011 Marrakech, MOROCCO	<b>Geobiology in Space Exploration Workshop and Field Trip</b> A meeting of talks and discussions to understand the full range of the contributions of geobiology to space exploration and settlement. Field trip "Geomicrobiology and Geology from Precambrian to Quaternary" - dates are February 10-14, 2011. Deadline for registration without surcharge is December 4, 2010. Abstract submission deadline is January 7, 2011. <a href="http://www.irsps.unich.it/education/geoexp2011/">http://www.irsps.unich.it/education/geoexp2011/</a>
	February 18-22, 2011 Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA	<b>IAG/AIG Regional Conference on Geomorphology</b> <a href="http://www.geomorph.org/main.html">http://www.geomorph.org/main.html</a>
	February 23, 2011 Pasadena, CA, USA	<b>48<sup>th</sup> 2001 Mars Odyssey PSG Meeting</b> Jet Propulsion Laboratory
	<b>Update</b> February 28-March 2, 2011 Orlando, FL, USA	<b>2011 Next Generation Suborbital Researchers Conference</b> Registration open. <a href="http://nsrc.swri.org">http://nsrc.swri.org</a>
	March 5-6, 2011 The Woodlands, TX, USA	<b>Microsymposium 52: The Moon: The first Billion Years of Crustal Evolution</b> To be held at the site of the 42 <sup>nd</sup> Lunar and Planetary Science Conference <a href="http://www.planetary.brown.edu/html_pages/micro52.htm">http://www.planetary.brown.edu/html_pages/micro52.htm</a>

	<b>Update</b> March 5-6, 2011 The Woodlands, TX, USA	<b>Workshop on the Importance of Solar System Sample Return Missions to the Future of Planetary Science</b> The workshop will focus on why sample return science is important to the future of solar system science and exploration, including the implications for NASA as it plans and implements future missions. Topics include the potential solar system targets of interest for sample return; storage, curation of the target of interest, during transit, and back on Earth, and selected planetary protection topics. Abstracts deadline December 14, 2010 <a href="http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/ssr2011/">http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/ssr2011/</a>
	March 7-11, 2011 The Woodlands, TX, USA	<b>42<sup>nd</sup> Lunar and Planetary Science Conference</b> Abstracts due by January 4, 2011 <a href="http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/lpsc2011/">http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/lpsc2011/</a>
<i>Second Quarter, 2011</i>		
	April 2011	<b>Fifth MSL Landing Site Community Workshop</b>
	April 3-8, 2011 Vienna, AUSTRIA	<b>European Geosciences Union General Assembly</b> <a href="http://meetings.copernicus.org/egu2011">http://meetings.copernicus.org/egu2011</a>
	April 11-15, 2011 Houston, TX, USA	<b>Humans in Space Symposium</b> <a href="http://www.dsls.usra.edu/meetings/IAA/">http://www.dsls.usra.edu/meetings/IAA/</a>
	May 4-6, 2011 Pisa, ITALY	<b>Solar System Science Before and After Gaia</b> <a href="http://www.oca.eu/workshop/Pise/">http://www.oca.eu/workshop/Pise/</a>
	May 18-20, 2011 Madrid, SPAIN	<b>Conference on Micro-Raman Spectroscopy and Luminescence Studies in the Earth and Planetary Sciences (CORALS II)</b> Indication of Interest deadline December 17, 2010 <a href="http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/corals2011/">http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/corals2011/</a>
	June 6-10, 2011 Portsmouth, VA, USA	<b>8<sup>th</sup> International Planetary Probe Workshop (IPPW-8)</b> Contact David Atkinson, <a href="mailto:Atkinson@uidaho.edu">Atkinson@uidaho.edu</a>
	June 5-8, 2011 Bozeman, MT, USA	<b>AbGradCon 2011 – Astrobiology Graduate Student Conference</b> <a href="http://abgradcon2011.org/">http://abgradcon2011.org/</a>
	June 13-15, 2011 Lisbon, PORTUGAL	<b>International Conference on Mars on “The Exploration of Mars Habitability”</b> <b>Pre-Conference Mars Science Team Meetings:</b> June 12-13 (1.5) days. Open for Mars science team meetings. <b>Post-Meeting Field Trip: Rio Tinto, Spain:</b> June 18-20/21 (3-4 days). Visit to unique geology and acidic environment.
	June 13-15, 2011 Houston, TX, USA	<b>A Wet vs. Dry Moon: Exploring Volatile Reservoirs and Implications for the Evolution of the Moon and Future Exploration</b> <a href="http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/volatiles2011/">http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/volatiles2011/</a>
	June 16-17, 2011 Lisbon, PORTUGAL	<b>First International MEPAG Meeting</b>
	June 19-22, 2011 Ottawa, Ontario, CANADA	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Joint Planetary and Terrestrial Mining Sciences Symposium and Space Resources Roundtable (PTMSS/SRR)</b> Details to be posted to the PTMSS website ( <a href="http://www.ptmss.com">www.ptmss.com</a> ) as they become available.
	June 22-24, 2011 Greenbelt, MD, USA	<b>The Annual Meeting of Planetary Mappers</b> Contact Les Bleamaster ( <a href="mailto:lbleamas@psi.edu">lbleamas@psi.edu</a> )

<i>Third Quarter, 2011</i>		
	July 3-8, 2011 Montpellier, FRANCE	<b>ISSOL – The International Astrobiology Society an IAU C51 (Bioastronomy) Joint International Conference</b> <a href="http://www.origins2011.univ-montp2.fr/">http://www.origins2011.univ-montp2.fr/</a>
	July 17-22, 2011 South Hadley, MA, USA	<b>2011 Gordon Research Conference on Origins of Solar Systems</b> Applications deadline is June 26, 2011. Apply early because it is expected to be oversubscribed. <a href="http://www.grc.org">http://www.grc.org</a>
	August 8-11, 2011 Taipei, TAIWAN	<b>AOGS 2011 – Asia Oceania Geosciences Society</b> <a href="http://www.asiaoceania.org/aogs2011/public.asp?page=home.htm">http://www.asiaoceania.org/aogs2011/public.asp?page=home.htm</a>
	August 8-12, 2011 Greenwich, ENGLAND	<b>74th Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society</b> Contact: Gretchen Benedix ( <a href="mailto:g.benedix@nhm.ac.uk">g.benedix@nhm.ac.uk</a> ) <a href="http://www.metsoc2011.org">http://www.metsoc2011.org</a>
	August 14-19, 2011 Prague, Czech Republic	<b>Goldschmidt 2011</b> <a href="http://www.goldschmidt2011.org/">http://www.goldschmidt2011.org/</a>
<i>Fourth Quarter, 2011</i>		
	October 2-7, 2011 Nantes, FRANCE	<b>43rd Annual Meeting of the DPS &amp; 2011 European Planetary Science Congress</b> Contact Olivier Grasset at <a href="mailto:Olivier.Grasset@univ-nantes.fr">Olivier.Grasset@univ-nantes.fr</a> <a href="http://www.aas.org/dps/meetings.html">http://www.aas.org/dps/meetings.html</a>
	October 9–12, 2011 Minneapolis, MN, USA	<b>Geological Society of America Annual Meeting</b> <a href="http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/">http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/</a>
	December 12–16, 2011 San Francisco, CA, USA	<b>AGU Fall Meeting</b> <a href="http://www.agu.org/meetings">www.agu.org/meetings</a>
<i>2012</i>		
	March 2012	<b>43<sup>rd</sup> Lunar and Planetary Science Conference</b>
	July 14-22, 2012 Mysore, INDIA	<b>COSPAR 2012 Scientific Assembly</b> Abstracts deadline – mid-February 2012 <a href="http://cosparhq.cnes.fr/Meetings/sciass.htm">http://cosparhq.cnes.fr/Meetings/sciass.htm</a>
	August 2012 Cairns, Queensland AUSTRALIA	<b>75th Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society</b> Contact: Trevor Ireland <a href="http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org/simple_template.cfm?code=news_meetings">http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org/simple_template.cfm?code=news_meetings</a>
	August 2012 Brisbane, AUSTRALIA	<b>The 34<sup>th</sup> International Geological Congress</b> <a href="http://www.33igc.org/">http://www.33igc.org/</a>
	November 4-7, 2012 Charlotte, North Carolina, USA	<b>Geological Society of America Annual Meeting</b>
<i>2013</i>		
	March 2013	<b>44<sup>th</sup> Lunar and Planetary Science Conference</b>
	July 2013 Pasadena, CA, USA	<b>8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Mars</b> California Institute of Technology
	October 27-30, 2013 Denver, Colorado, USA	<b>Geological Society of America Annual Meeting</b>
<i>2014</i>		
	March 2014	<b>45<sup>th</sup> Lunar and Planetary Science Conference</b>

October 19-22, 2014 Vancouver, British Columbia, CANADA	<b>Geological Society of American Annual Meeting</b>
<i>2015</i>	
March 2015	<b>46<sup>th</sup> Lunar and Planetary Science Conference</b>

Special holidays to consider when scheduling conferences/workshops/meetings:

Good Friday	4/22/2011	4/6/2012	3/29/2013	4/18/2014	4/3/2015
Rosh Hashanah	9/29/2011	9/17/2012	9/5/2013	9/25/2014	9/14/2015
Yom Kippur	10/8/2011	9/26/2012	9/14/2013	10/4/2014	9/23/2015
(Note that Jewish holidays start at sundown the previous evening).					
Thanksgiving Day, U.S.	11/24/2011	11/22/2012	11/28/2013	11/27/2014	11/26/2015
Thanksgiving Day, Canada	10/10/2011	10/8/2012	10/14/2013	10/13/2014	10/12/2015

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Please send your Mars Community Announcements and calendar items for inclusion in next month's email to Joyce Pulliam, [Joyce.N.Pulliam@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:Joyce.N.Pulliam@jpl.nasa.gov), 818-393-0444.

All announcements listed in this newsletter will be posted on the MEPAG website, available at <http://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov>.